Brightwell cum Sotwell, Little Martins Field: BRLMF 2018

Metal finds

Ian R Scott

There are just eight metal finds from the excavation. Two finds are from topsoil (context 2000) and four objects were metal detector finds (context 2309).

The finds from top soil comprise a decorative probably hand-made lock escutcheon (sf 6) in copper alloy and a cut half of a silver short cross penny (sf 5) of one of the early Plantagenet kings. Short cross coinage was introduced in 1180 in the reign of Henry II (1154-1189) and was minted and used through the reigns of Richard (1189-1199) and John (1199-1216) until 1267 when Long Cross coinage was introduced in the reign of Henry III (1216-1272). Other finds include cast musket ball (context 27, sf 8) weighing a little over 1 oz (31g), four post medieval finds located by metal detector (context 2039) and a small copper alloy fragment (sf 7) which was recovered from context 2213.

Catalogue

- Musket ball, cast lead, with mould line around circumference and upstanding stub of where the lead was poured. Made in bullet mould. Pb. D: 18mm. Context 27, Sf 8. Post medieval. The weight of the ball (31g = 1.09oz) suggests that 14 shot were being made from a pound of lead.
- 2 Cut Short Cross penny of the early Plantagenet kings: Henry II (from 1180), Richard I (1189-1199), John (1199-1216) and Henry II (1216 to 1267). (2 x refitting fragments.) Obverse: Facing bust, legend 'He]NRICVS R[ex' // Reverse: Short voided cross with quatrefoil in each angle. Legend '...]NI . LUND [..' for the London mint. Silver. D: 21mm. Context 2000, Sf 5
- Decorative keyhole escutcheon probably for a chest or other piece of furniture (2 x refitting fragments). Cut openwork surround an oval central panel with keyhole and engraved with flowers and leaves. Pin holes at each end and at the top. Probably a fourth pin hole is missing at the bottom which broken. Cu alloy. W: 75mm; Ht extant: 55mm. Context 2000, Sf 6 Post Medieval?
- Possible clip or hook? Small flat tongue-shaped fragment, rounded at the narrower end and broken off at the wider end which is also bent at a right angle. Purpose unclear. Cu alloy. L: 12mm; W: 7mm. Context 2213, Sf 7
 Not datable typologically
- 5 Plain flat circular shank button, complete with shank. Cu alloy. D: 18mm. Context 2309, Sf 10 Late 18th- or 19th-century.
- Possible hollow button with domed face, fragment only. With traces of possible white (lead?) filler. Cu alloy? D: c 20mm. Context 2309, Sf 11
 Not closely datable.
- 7 Cast drape ring of flat cross section. Cu alloy D: 26mm. Context 2309, Sf 12 Post medieval.
- Tapered ferrule or socket formed from rolled sheet cu alloy, with overlapped seam. The narrow end is incomplete. L extant: 35mm; D: 10mm. Context 2309, Sf 13

 Not closely datable but probably post medieval or later.